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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 11 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to write to you in connection with the letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of 10 September 2003 (A/58/408), to which is annexed the text of the written statement made by the British delegation in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by Néstor Carlos Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic, on 25 September 2003 in the General Assembly. In this regard, the Argentine Government endorses every word of the statement in question.

With respect to the reference to self-determination in the British statement, the Argentine Government reaffirms the need to apply the principle of territorial integrity to the special and particular colonial situation under the item on the question of the Malvinas Islands. In this context, we would refer to the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and subsequent resolutions on this question, which call on Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume bilateral negotiations with a view to finding as promptly as possible a just, peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, bearing in mind the interests of the population of the islands. In addition, the Argentine Government reaffirms its interpretative declaration concerning the Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which is annexed to the Argentine letter of the same date (A/55/371).

The Argentine Government wishes to clarify that, in addition to the 1999 joint statement cited in the written British statement, there are other valid provisional understandings with the United Kingdom relating to sovereignty formula which safeguard the position of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The Argentine Republic considers that these provisional

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understandings, in addition to resulting some practical problems in the South Atlantic, are conducive to the renewal of bilateral negotiations on sovereignty.

The Argentine Government would point out that the persons from the Malvinas Islands who participated in the meeting of the Special Committee on Decolonization on 10 June 2003 did so as petitioners, without any of the representative status which the written statement of the United Kingdom claims for them and which the Argentine Republic rejects.

The Argentine Government reaffirms its rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which form an integral part of its national territory.

I request you to have the text of this present note circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19 and 32.

(Signed) Arnoldo M. **Listre**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative